

Claims

Sub. a) 1. A golf practice apparatus (1), which comprises a frame (2), a ball (5) attached to the frame by means of a suspension device (4), a buffer component (7) attached to the suspension device for stopping the ball in flight, and devices (3, 8) for recording the direction and length of flight of the ball, **characterized** in that the buffer component (7) is located at a level that corresponds more or less to the horizontal position of the suspension device (4) and that the recording devices (3, 8) for the direction and/or length of flight of the ball are located in a place that is essentially between the buffer component (7) and the attachment point of the suspension device.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the devices (3, 8) for recording the direction and/or length of flight of the ball are of a type that records the position of the ball (5) and/or suspension device (4) in a situation in which the ball (5) strikes the buffer (7) or its vicinity.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the device also includes a display (9) for showing the position of the ball and possibly other information.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the devices (3, 8) for recording the direction and/or length of the ball's flight are a type of control switch or similar that determines the lateral position of the suspension device (4) of the ball and possibly shows its position on the display (9).

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the devices (3, 8) for recording the direction and/or length of flight of the ball are a type of mechanical switch.

6. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the devices for recording the direction and/or length of flight are based on using light, such as infrared light, for example, in the manner used to move the cursor of a computer mouse.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the devices for recording the length of stroke and/or length of flight of the ball are located at the point of attachment of the ball's suspension device (4).

5 8. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the device for measuring the length of stroke of the ball and also the device (3) for measuring its direction of stroke are connected to the movements of the ball's suspension device (4).

10 9. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that it includes impulse sensors for recording the movements and/or position of the suspension device (4).

15 10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the buffer device (7) is located more or less on the level of the attachment point of the suspension device and is essentially horizontal with a stopping surface on its underside, and that the device (8) for recording the direction of stroke of the ball is essentially slightly lower than the said level, between the attachment point of the suspension device (4) and the buffer device (7).

20 11. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the device (8) for recording the direction of stroke of the ball comprises sensor devices arranged transversely to the direction of flight of the ball.

25 12. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the display (9) of the apparatus comprises a field of indicator lights or the display screen (9) of a computer, from which the change in position of the ball, derived from the results of the measurement devices, can be seen on a fairway shown on the display (9).

30 13. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the buffer component (7) can be adjusted.

14. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the

apparatus also includes a flap-like buffer (10) for stopping the backwards and forwards swing of the ball (5) and the suspension device (4).

- 5 15. An apparatus according to one of the above Claims, **characterized** in that the apparatus for measuring the direction of stroke of the ball is based on the joystick principle.
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